

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle ac generator according to ~~claim 1~~claim 5, wherein the protecting wall portion is disposed proximate to the air intake openings.
3. (Original) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 2, wherein the protection cover further includes a plurality of protecting wall portions including the protecting wall portion, and each of the protecting wall portions is provided for one of each air intake opening and a plurality of air intake openings.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle ac generator according to claim 1,~~A vehicle ac generator, comprising:  
a stator having a stator winding;  
a rotor disposed to oppose the stator in an inner periphery of the stator;  
a rectifying device that converts ac voltage generated in the stator winding into dc voltage; and  
a protection cover surrounding the rectifying device, wherein  
a protection cover includes a cover body and a protecting wall portion  
integrally formed with the cover body,  
the cover body forms a plurality of air intake openings on an axial end surface  
through which cooling air created by rotation of the rotor is sucked in,  
the protecting wall portion extends from the axial end surface of the cover  
body in an axially outward direction at a position higher than the air intake openings when  
mounted on a vehicle, wherein and

\_\_\_\_\_ the protection cover further includes a connecting portion integrally formed therein, the connecting portion is located between the cover body and the protecting wall portion such that the protecting wall portion is held at a position separate from the cover body.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle ac generator according to claim 1~~ A vehicle ac generator, comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a stator having a stator winding;

\_\_\_\_\_ a rotor disposed to oppose the stator in an inner periphery of the stator;

\_\_\_\_\_ a rectifying device that converts ac voltage generated in the stator winding into dc voltage; and

\_\_\_\_\_ a protection cover surrounding the rectifying device, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ a protection cover includes a cover body and a protecting wall portion integrally formed with the cover body,

\_\_\_\_\_ the cover body forms a plurality of air intake openings on an axial end surface through which cooling air created by rotation of the rotor is sucked in,

\_\_\_\_\_ the protecting wall portion extends from the axial end surface of the cover body in an axially outward direction at a position higher than the air intake openings when mounted on a vehicle, wherein and

\_\_\_\_\_ the protecting wall portion is formed with a guide portion for leading foreign materials dropped on the protecting wall portion in a downward direction.

6. (Original) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 5, wherein the guide portion is in a form of projection.

7. (Original) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 6, wherein the projection is formed along an axial end of the protecting wall portion.

8. (Original) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 5, wherein the guide portion is a recess formed on the protecting wall portion.

9. (Original) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 8, wherein the protecting wall portion has an inclined portion that is inclined radially outside and the recess is formed at a position proximate to the inclined portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle ac generator according to ~~claim 4~~claim 5, wherein the air intake openings are concentric with a rotation axis of the rotor, and the protecting wall portion is formed to extend from an upper perimeter of the air intake opening.

11. (New) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 5, wherein a terminal is provided to connect the rectifying device and a voltage control device, and the wall portion is provided near the terminal to protect the terminal from foreign material.

12. (New) The vehicle ac generator according to claim 5, wherein a voltage control device is provided to control an exciting current to a field winding of the rotor, and the wall portion is provided over the voltage control device.